

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SAJ-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

NIC-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /081 W
----- 008760

R 210905Z AUG 73
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 593
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0861

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CH
SUBJ: MORE ON PREPARATIONS FOR PARTY CONGRESS

REF: PEKING 0834 (NOTAL)

1. SAME LARGE NUMBERS OF BUSES, CARS AND CARRYALLS
NOTED IN FRONT OF GREAT HALL OF PEOPLE AUGUST 17
(REFTEL) REAPPEARED ON AFTERNOONS OF AUGUST 18 AND 19,
BUT WERE CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT AUGUST 20. USLO OFFICER
AUGUST 19 OBSERVED ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS FOR AFTER-NOON
SESSION. GROUPS ORGANIZED BY UNIT, INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES
OF THREE ARMED SERVICES AND YOUTH GROUP. FIFTEEN TO
TWENTY RED FLAG LIMOUSINES AT NORTH ENTRANCE
CONTINUE TO PARK EACH EVENING AND LIGHTS BURN LATE ON
TOP FLOOR AND ON SECOND FLOOR NORTHEAST CORNER ROOM.
2. WE BELIEVE THAT ACTIVITY CONNECTED TO PREPARATIONS
FOR PARTY CONGRESS, BUT THAT MEETING HAS NOT FORMALLY BEGUN.
PEKING PRESS CONTAINS NO CLUES AS TO ALTERNATIVE
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EVENTS WHICH MIGHT REQUIRE USE OF GREAT HALL. ON BASIS

OUR OWN OBSERVATIONS, BELIEVE PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR TRI-CONTINENTAL TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT (TTTT) TAKING PLACE AT CHINESE PEOPLE'S POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE (CPPCC) HEADQUARTERS NORTH OF MINDZU HOTEL.

3. A KNOWLEDGEABLE POLE WHO WAS AN OBSERVER AT THE EIGHTH PARTY CONGRESS AND PRESENT IN PEKING FOR THE NINTH HAZARDED THAT WHEN THE MEETINGS FORMALLY BEGIN, THE GREAT HALL WILL BE FILLED TO ITS TEN THOUSAND SEAT CAPACITY, REQUIRING TWICE THE ROLLING STOCK ALREADY NOTED OUTSIDE THE BUILDING. FURTHERMORE, THERE WILL BE MUCH MORE OBVIOUS LIMOUSINE TRAFFIC SHUTTLLING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE CHUNG NAN HAI LEADERSHIP COMPOUND AND THE GREAT HALL. HIS EXPERIENCED RULE OF THUMB IS THAT IMPORTANT EVENTS IN PEKING ARE ALWAYS PRECEDED BY THE PLACING OF ARMED PLA GUARDS AT THE POST OFFICES IN THE CITY. SINCE NO GUARDS HAVE APPEARED, NOTHING BIG IS UP, YET. AT ANY RATE, THE POLE CONCLUDED, WHEN THE EVENT OCCURS, THE CHINESE WILL ANNOUNCE IT.

4. IN THE MEANTIME, USLO WOULD APPRECIATE HONG KONG PROVIDING SOME BASIC BACKGROUND DATA ON SEQUENCE OF MEDIA REPORTING FOR EIGHTH AND NINTH CONGRESSES. SPECIFICALLY, WOULD LIKE TO KNOW DATES WHEN PARTY CONGRESSES FIRST ANNOUNCED

IN RELATION TO WHEN THEY ACTUALLY CONVENED; DATES OF ANNOUNCEMENT OR PUBLICATION OF MAJOR DOCUMENTS; DATES OF DOCUMENTS ACTUAL PRESENTATION TO CONGRESS, IF KNOWN; NUMBER OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS, AND LENGTH EACH CONGRESS.
BRUCE

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